

NOTES ON EDUCATION.

The new sections of the Illinois School law require each county superintendent to hold annually a Teachers' Institute, continuing in session not less than five days. Admission thereto shall be free to all teachers holding regular certificates, but all others wishing to attend must pay a fee of \$1. Money is appropriated by the law for all necessary expenses of the Institutes. This will effect a much-desired change in the State's educational system, but it is a pity that the law-makers did not add a section requiring the State and County superintendents and State Board of Education to agree upon some uniform system of study and discussion to be pursued at the Institutes. Such gatherings are too often entirely subordinated in interest to the especial hobbies of the superintendents who control them. They should not be used as platforms for promoting personal interests, but to ascertain certain facts relating to the objects of others; nor is a five days' session a long enough time to warrant the taking up of the details of any branch. The leading motive of the successful Institute must be a general interchange of ideas and experience as to methods and means of instruction and school discipline.

Iowa has a Summer School of Natural Science, which will be in session from July 30 to August 17.

The new University Association, of Milwaukee, Wis., has elected a board of officers and appointed a committee to confer with all heads of academies and colleges throughout the Northwest, with a view to securing their co-operation in the university project. Mr. Charles L. Colby, president of the association, explains the character of the proposed institution as follows: "It will be no more sectarian in character than Yale, Brown, Amherst or Williams College. The condition that three-fifths of the directors shall be Baptists is for the reason that the greater part of the donations come from that denomination; afterward, there will be no contest as to which denomination shall have the control. The university will be accessible to every person irrespective of his or her religious persuasion. As far as this can be rendered agreeable to the Christian religion it will have to work on the same principles as the Young Men's Christian Association." A fund of \$1,000,000 is now in the hands of the association, of which \$200,000 will be invested in buildings, etc., and the remainder preserved as the nucleus of an endowment fund.

The opinion widely prevails in Washington that the colored schools in that city will soon be abolished and all schools made "mixed," both as to scholars and teachers.

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According to a recent report, there are in Berlin 132 communal schools, with 2,183 classes and 121,132 pupils. In these instruction is entirely free. There are also about 3,000 children in free private schools, making in all 124,000 children receiving gratuitous instruction. Each communal pupil costs the city about \$12 annual. There are in the communal schools 132 rectors or principals, 1,370 male teachers and 1,211 female teachers. The average age of new teachers appointed during the past year is twenty-five years.

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